

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT
CLAUSE CONTAINED WITHIN THE RATE
SCHEDULES OF DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.

CASE NO. 19-218-GA-GCR

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE
EXPENSE RIDER OF DUKE ENERGY OHIO,
INC.

CASE NO. 19-318-GA-UEX

IN THE MATTER OF THE PERCENTAGE OF
INCOME PAYMENT PLAN RIDER OF DUKE
ENERGY OHIO, INC.

CASE NO. 19-418-GA-PIP

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 3, 2021

{¶ 1} Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke or Company) is a natural gas company, as defined by R.C. 4905.03, and a public utility by reason of R.C. 4905.02. As such, Duke is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, in accordance with R.C. 4905.04 and 4905.05.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4905.302 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 provide that the Commission shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, periodic audits of each gas or natural gas company under the Commission's jurisdiction. Such audits shall review each company's compliance with the gas cost recovery (GCR) mechanism as delineated in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-14.

{¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08 provides that the Commission shall hold a public hearing at least 60 days after the filing of each GCR audit report required under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C) specifies the requirement for notice of a GCR hearing, which each company should cause to be published between 15 and 30 days prior to the date set for its hearing. The notice may be provided by publication of a display ad in a newspaper (in a section other than the legal notice section), bill message, bill insert, or direct mailing to the customers.

{¶ 4} By Entry issued on February 20, 2019, the Commission, inter alia, initiated these cases to review Duke's gas cost recovery rates, purchased gas adjustment clause, gas purchasing policies and practices, and related matters. The Entry scheduled these matters for hearing on January 14, 2020; directed that audit reports be filed no later than November 15, 2019; directed Duke to file any direct testimony at least 16 days prior to the hearing; and directed Duke to publish notice of the hearing between 15 and 30 days prior to the hearing date.

{¶ 5} By Entry dated December 24, 2019, the attorney examiner granted a motion for continuance of the procedural schedule. The hearing was called, as originally scheduled, for public comment on January 14, 2020. The attorney examiner stated that the evidentiary hearing and deadlines for the filing of direct testimony would resume on a date established by future entry.

{¶ 6} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists. The Department of Health is making COVID-19 information, including information on preventative measures, available via the internet at coronavirus.ohio.gov/.

{¶ 7} On June 8, 2020, Duke and Staff filed a joint stipulation and recommendation for the Commission's consideration. Direct testimony in support of the joint stipulation and recommendation was filed by Duke on August 20, 2020.

{¶ 8} At this time, the attorney examiner finds that the evidentiary hearing should resume on April 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Due to the continued state of emergency, and given

the passage of Sub. H.B. 404, the hearing will be held using remote access technology, as follows:

- (a) The hearing will be conducted through Webex, which will enable the parties and interested persons to participate by telephone and/or video on the internet.
- (b) Access information for the hearing will be provided to the parties at their electronic mail address of record.
- (c) Interested persons that wish to provide testimony must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m., on March 31, 2021, at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/events/case-no-19-218-ga-gcr-evh> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals will be required to provide their full name, home address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if available; state that they wish to register for the public hearing in Case No. 19-218-GA-GCR; specify whether they plan to join the Webex event by internet or by telephone; and indicate whether they intend to offer testimony. Individuals that plan to attend the Webex event through internet access must have a computer or smart device with a microphone and speakers, an electronic mail address, and reliable internet service. Interested individuals who wish to attend the public hearing remotely and not offer testimony can do so by registering and indicating they do not intend to provide testimony or by calling 1-408-418-9388 and entering access code 129 795 2823.
- (d) On the day of the hearing, individuals who have registered to testify will be asked to speak beginning shortly after 10:00 a.m., so all those who have registered to testify should be prepared to speak at that time. For individuals who are speaking by telephone, the Commission's staff

will contact those individuals by telephone when it is time for their testimony and connect them to the hearing. If access or other issues are experienced during the hearing, individuals should immediately use the chat function within Webex or contact the Commission's legal department at 1-614-466-6843 for assistance.

- (e) If individuals wish to supplement their testimony with an exhibit for the Commission's consideration, a copy of the document, along with a reference to the case number, must be provided to the Commission by April 1, 2021, by electronic mail to ContactThePUCO@puco.ohio.gov or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
- (f) Public comments can be provided in writing on the Commission's web site at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/helpcenter/contact-us>, by electronic mail to ContactThePUCO@puco.ohio.gov, or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Written comments should reference the case number for this matter.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the hearing in these matters resume on April 1, 2021, and be conducted in accordance with Paragraph 8. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons and parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Lauren L. Augostini

By: Lauren L. Augostini
Attorney Examiner

NJW/hac

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 19-0218-GA-GCR, 19-0318-GA-UEX, 19-0418-GA-PIP

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the hearing in these matters resume on April 1, 2021, and be conducted in accordance with Paragraph 8 electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Lauren L. Augostini, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio